

many awards, including the Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce John Packman Memorial Award Winner in 1988, and being named the Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen in 2007.

In light of all that Tom Thomas has done for the community of Lake Elsinore, Riverside County and the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce, it is only fitting to name him as Citizen of the Year. Through his involvement and dedication, Tom has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. On behalf of the 42nd Congressional District, I want to express my appreciation and pride in Tom on this special occasion. I add my voice to the many who paid tribute to Tom for receiving the Citizen of the Year award from the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN J.  
PRINGLE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Stephen J. Pringle, Associate Director of Government Affairs for Texas Farm Bureau.

Mr. Pringle was born on the 5th of May, 1949 in Marlin, Texas. He was raised in Hill County where he attended Hubbard High School. He then received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University and upon graduation, served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army at the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Depot in Indian Head, Maryland.

Mr. Pringle's passion for agriculture began in 1973, when he served as a staff member to the United States House Committee on Agriculture. While working for the committee he had the honor of attending the World Food Conference in Rome and was present on the House floor during the swearing in of Vice-President, Gerald Ford. After leaving the committee, Mr. Pringle worked as an assistant to the President of Texas A&M, served as State Executive Director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and worked at the International Association of Drilling Contractors in Houston.

From there, Mr. Pringle went on to spend 26 years at the Texas Farm Bureau where he worked tirelessly to support and protect the livelihoods of Texas' many farmers and ranchers. Mr. Pringle also built lasting relationships with countless members of Congress and the Texas Legislature during his tenure at the Texas Farm Bureau and it was a privilege to work with him.

Over the course of his career, he has also been involved in his local community. He served as President of his local Texas A&M Alumni Association, President and Board Member of the Waco Camp Fire Organization, served on the original Waco Education Association, and has been active in the Government Relations Council for the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Mr. Pringle is a proud husband and father. He has been happily married to his wife Linda for forty years and their daughter, Lara, has grown up to be a successful attorney in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to celebrate the work of my friend Stephen J. Pringle. His passion and commitment to the farmers and ranchers of Texas will long be remembered and I congratulate him on his retirement.

NEEDVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FFA  
WINS BIG

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Needville High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) livestock judging team who recently won Reserve Grand National Champion at the Western National Roundup in Denver.

The team, comprised of Kutter Korczynski, Myles Hackstedt, Craig Todd and Ty Thomas, competed against other teams from around the country in the livestock judging contest. The teammates evaluated and ranked 40 different animals in 10 classes. After evaluating the livestock, the team had to prepare a series of speeches to explain their evaluations. This is a great victory for their agriculture science teacher, Michael Poe, and the rest of the Blue Jay community. We are excited to see them represent Texas at the world competition in Scotland.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Needville High livestock judging team. They have made the community proud.

THE NEED TO TAKE ACTION TO  
ENSURE THAT ASSETS OF NA-  
TIONAL BANKS IN CIS COUN-  
TRIES ARE NOT USED TO BEN-  
EFIT TERRORIST ORGANIZA-  
TIONS

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the banking industry in former CIS countries involving a bank in Latvia, ABLV. I have learned that ABLV was found to have not engaged in any activity regarding the Government of Moldova and/or activities related to the misappropriation of government funds and that there has been a thorough investigation of this matter and ABLV was not implicated in any wrongdoing with regard to this or any other matter in Moldova.

In Moldova more than \$1 billion was stolen from the Moldovan national treasury and a large portion of that money appears to have ended up in EU banks in Latvia.

I still call upon the Administration and the Congress to investigate whether assets of the other national banks of countries of the former Soviet Union are not being plundered and used, knowingly or unknowingly, to benefit terrorist organizations.

BIG TIME GROWTH FOR HOUSTON  
MARINERS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College for their success in opening a new 45,000 square-foot maritime training center.

San Jacinto College sits next to the Port of Houston, which gives students prime opportunity to further their maritime career through interaction with community and industry partners. With its history dating back to the 1960s, San Jacinto College is now home to almost 30,000 students across 3 campuses and 12 extension centers. The new maritime training center is an excellent addition to their already successful campuses. This new facility contains three ship simulators, an engineering room with hydraulics, a swimming pool, and much more. San Jacinto College is a great place for students to grow and to develop critical education and workforce skills. We're proud of the many opportunities it offers to students in the Houston area.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to San Jacinto College for their new training center. We can't wait to see what happens next.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on January 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act (H.R. 3662). Had I been present for the vote, roll call vote number 44, I would have voted no.

NATURALLY BECK BUILDS TO  
SUCCESS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Beck Junior High Robotics team, Naturally Beck, for winning the Katy Qualifier Robotics Tournament. This achievement allowed them to advance to the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) LEGO League Championship in Stafford, Texas.

Naturally Beck, won the first place championship for the second year in a row, defeating 23 other teams from all over Houston at the Katy tournament. The Naturally Beck team consists of five members and two mentors for the 2015-2016 roster. Students competing at the FIRST LEGO League really put their engineering skills to the test by using LEGO Mindstorms NXT technologies to craft the perfect robot for research purposes. This year, Naturally Beck's research project consisted of an inventive solution to address the way the